By: Hughes S.B. No. 2227

	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1	AN ACT
2	relating to securitizing costs associated with electric markets;
3	granting authority to issue bonds.
4	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
5	SECTION 1. Chapter 31, Utilities Code, is amended by adding
6	Subchapter C to read as follows:
7	SUBCHAPTER C. SECURITIZATION CORPORATION
8	Sec. 31.101. PURPOSE. (a) The purpose of this subchapter
9	is to create a corporation dedicated to financing costs that are
10	eligible for securitization as provided by Subchapter M, Chapter
11	39. An entity authorized to securitize costs under Subchapter M,
12	Chapter 39, subject to any other requirements applicable to the

15 <u>(b) The Texas Electric Securitization Corporation is</u>
16 created under this subchapter as a special purpose public

Corporation conduct the financing on behalf of the entity.

authorization, may request that the Texas Electric Securitization

- 17 corporation and instrumentality of the state for the essential
- 18 public purpose of providing a lower-cost financing mechanism for
- 19 <u>securitization in the manner provided by this subchapter.</u>
- 20 <u>(c) Bonds issued under this subchapter will be the</u>
- 21 obligation solely of the issuer and the corporation as borrower, if
- 22 applicable, and will not be a debt of or a pledge of the faith and
- 23 <u>credit of the state.</u>

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24 (d) Bonds issued under this subchapter shall be nonrecourse

- 1 to the credit or any assets of the state and the commission.
- 2 Sec. 31.102. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
- 3 (1) "Corporation" means the Texas Electric
- 4 Securitization Corporation.
- 5 (2) "Issuer" means the corporation or any other
- 6 corporation, public trust, public instrumentality, or entity that
- 7 <u>issues bonds approved by a financing order.</u>
- 8 Sec. 31.103. CREATION OF CORPORATION. (a) The corporation
- 9 is a nonprofit corporation and instrumentality of this state, and
- 10 shall perform the essential governmental function of financing
- 11 eligible costs in accordance with this subchapter. The corporation:
- 12 (1) shall perform only functions consistent with this
- 13 subchapter;
- 14 (2) shall exercise its powers through a governing
- 15 board;
- 16 (3) is subject to the regulation of the commission;
- 17 and
- 18 (4) has a legal existence as a public corporate body
- 19 and instrumentality of the state separate and distinct from the
- 20 state.
- 21 (b) Assets of the corporation may not be considered part of
- 22 any state fund. The state may not budget for or provide any state
- 23 money to the corporation. The debts, claims, obligations, and
- 24 liabilities of the corporation may not be considered to be a debt of
- 25 the state or a pledge of its credit.
- 26 (c) The corporation must be self-funded. Before the
- 27 imposition of charges to recover securitized amounts, the

- 1 corporation may accept and expend for its operating expenses money
- 2 that may be received from any source, including financing
- 3 agreements with the state, a commercial bank, or another entity to:
- 4 (1) finance the corporation's obligations until the
- 5 corporation receives sufficient property to cover its operating
- 6 expenses as financing costs; and
- 7 (2) repay any short-term borrowing under any such
- 8 financing agreements.
- 9 (d) The corporation has the powers, rights, and privileges
- 10 provided for a corporation organized under Chapter 22, Business
- 11 Organizations Code, subject to the express exceptions and
- 12 limitations provided by this subchapter.
- 13 (e) An organizer selected by the executive director of the
- 14 commission shall prepare the certificate of formation of the
- 15 corporation under Chapters 3 and 22, Business Organizations Code.
- 16 The certificate of formation must be consistent with the provisions
- 17 of this subchapter.
- (f) State officers and agencies are authorized to render
- 19 services to the corporation, within their respective functions, as
- 20 may be requested by the commission or the corporation.
- 21 (g) The corporation or an issuer may:
- 22 (1) retain professionals, financial advisors, and
- 23 accountants the corporation or issuer considers necessary to
- 24 fulfill the corporation's or issuer's duties under this subchapter;
- 25 and
- 26 (2) determine the duties and compensation of a person
- 27 retained under Subdivision (1), subject to the approval of the

- 1 commission.
- 2 (h) The corporation is governed by a board of five directors
- 3 appointed by the commission for two-year terms.
- 4 (i) An official action of the board of the corporation
- 5 requires the favorable vote of a majority of the directors present
- 6 and voting at a meeting of the board.
- 7 Sec. 31.104. POWERS AND DUTIES OF CORPORATION. (a) The
- 8 corporation, in each instance subject to the prior authorization of
- 9 the commission, shall participate in the financial transactions
- 10 authorized by this subchapter. The corporation may not engage in
- 11 business activities except those activities provided for by this
- 12 subchapter and those ancillary and incidental to those activities.
- 13 The corporation or an issuer may not apply proceeds of bonds or
- 14 charges to a purpose not specified in a financing order, to a
- 15 purpose in an amount that exceeds the amount allowed for the purpose
- 16 in the order, or to a purpose in contravention of the order.
- 17 <u>(b) The board of the corporation, under the provisions of</u>
- 18 this subchapter, may employ or retain persons as are necessary to
- 19 perform the duties of the corporation.
- 20 (c) The corporation may:
- 21 (1) acquire, sell, pledge, or transfer property as
- 22 necessary to effect the purposes of this subchapter and, in
- 23 <u>connection with the action, agree to such terms and conditions as</u>
- 24 the corporation considers necessary and proper, consistent with the
- 25 terms of a financing order:
- 26 (A) to acquire property and to pledge such
- 27 property, and any other collateral:

1	(i) to secure payment of bonds issued by the
2	corporation, together with payment of any other qualified costs; or
3	(ii) to secure repayment of any borrowing
4	from any other issuer of bonds; or
5	(B) to sell the property to another issuer, which
6	may in turn pledge that property, together with any other
7	collateral, to the repayment of bonds issued by the issuer together
8	with any other qualified costs;
9	(2) issue bonds on terms and conditions consistent
10	with a financing order;
11	(3) borrow funds:
12	(A) from an issuer of bonds to acquire property,
13	and pledge that property to the repayment of any borrowing from an
14	issuer, together with any related qualified costs, all on terms and
15	conditions consistent with a financing order; or
16	(B) for initial operating expenses;
17	(4) sue or be sued in its corporate name;
18	(5) intervene as a party before the commission or any
19	court in this state in any matter involving the corporation's
20	<pre>powers and duties;</pre>
21	(6) negotiate and become a party to contracts as
22	necessary, convenient, or desirable to carry out the purposes of
23	this subchapter; and
24	(7) engage in corporate actions or undertakings that
25	are permitted for nonprofit corporations in this state and that are
26	not prohibited by, or contrary to, this subchapter.
27	(d) The corporation shall maintain separate accounts and

- 1 records relating to each entity that collects charges for all
- 2 charges, revenues, assets, liabilities, and expenses relating to
- 3 the entity's related bond issuances.
- 4 (e) The board of the corporation may not authorize any
- 5 rehabilitation, liquidation, or dissolution of the corporation and
- 6 a rehabilitation, liquidation, or dissolution of the corporation
- 7 may not take effect as long as any bonds are outstanding unless
- 8 adequate protection and provision have been made for the payment of
- 9 the bonds pursuant to the documents authorizing the issuance of the
- 10 bonds. In the event of any rehabilitation, liquidation, or
- 11 dissolution, the assets of the corporation must be applied first to
- 12 pay all debts, liabilities, and obligations of the corporation,
- 13 including the establishment of reasonable reserves for any
- 14 contingent liabilities or obligations, and all remaining funds of
- 15 the corporation must be applied and distributed as provided by an
- 16 <u>order of the commission.</u>
- 17 (f) Before the date that is two years and one day after the
- 18 date that the corporation no longer has any payment obligation with
- 19 respect to any bonds, including any obligation to an issuer of any
- 20 bonds outstanding, the corporation may not file a voluntary
- 21 petition under federal bankruptcy law and neither any public
- 22 official nor any organization, entity, or other person may
- 23 <u>authorize the corporation to be or to become a debtor under federal</u>
- 24 bankruptcy law during that period. The state covenants that it will
- 25 not limit or alter the denial of authority under this subsection or
- 26 Subsection (e), and the provisions of this subsection and
- 27 Subsection (e) are hereby made a part of the contractual obligation

- 1 that is subject to the state pledge set forth in Section 39.609.
- 2 (g) The corporation shall prepare and submit to the
- 3 commission for approval an annual operating budget. If requested by
- 4 the commission, the corporation shall prepare and submit an annual
- 5 report containing the annual operating and financial statements of
- 6 the corporation and any other appropriate information.
- 7 Sec. 31.105. COMMISSION REGULATION OF CORPORATION. The
- 8 commission shall regulate the corporation as provided by this
- 9 subchapter. Notwithstanding the regulation authorized by this
- 10 section, the corporation is not a public utility.
- 11 Sec. 31.106. FINANCING ORDER. (a) This section applies to
- 12 the commission's issuance of a financing order under this
- 13 subchapter.
- 14 (b) Except as otherwise specifically provided by this
- 15 subchapter, the provisions of this subtitle that address the
- 16 <u>commission's issuance of a financing order under other provisions</u>
- 17 of this subtitle also apply to the commission's issuance of a
- 18 financing order under this subchapter.
- 19 (c) The corporation and any issuer must be a party to the
- 20 commission's proceedings that address the issuance of a financing
- 21 order along with the entity requesting securitization.
- 22 (d) In addition to the other applicable requirements of this
- 23 subtitle, a financing order issued under this subchapter must:
- 24 (1) require the sale, assignment, or other transfer to
- 25 the corporation of certain specified property created by the
- 26 financing order and, following that sale, assignment, or transfer,
- 27 require that charges paid under any financing order be created,

- 1 assessed, and collected as the property of the corporation, subject
- 2 to subsequent sale, assignment, or transfer by the corporation as
- 3 authorized under this subchapter;
- 4 (2) authorize:
- 5 (A) the issuance of bonds by the corporation
- 6 secured by a pledge of specified property, and the application of
- 7 the proceeds of those bonds, net of issuance costs, to the
- 8 acquisition of the property from the entity requesting
- 9 securitization; or
- 10 (B) the acquisition of specified property from
- 11 the entity requesting securitization by the corporation, financed:
- (i) by a loan by an issuer to the
- 13 corporation of the proceeds of bonds, net of issuance costs; or
- 14 (ii) by the acquisition by an issuer from
- 15 the corporation of the property and in each case the pledge of the
- 16 property to the repayment of the loan or bonds, as applicable; and
- 17 (3) authorize the entity requesting securitization to
- 18 serve as collection agent to collect the charges and transfer the
- 19 collected charges to the corporation, the issuer, or a financing
- 20 party, as appropriate.
- 21 <u>(e) After issuance of the financing order, the corporation</u>
- 22 shall arrange for the issuance of bonds as specified in the
- 23 financing order by the corporation or another issuer selected by
- 24 the corporation and approved by the commission.
- 25 (f) Bonds issued pursuant to a financing order under this
- 26 section are secured only by the related property and any other funds
- 27 pledged under the bond documents. No assets of the state or the

- 1 entity requesting securitization are subject to claims by the
- 2 holders of the bonds. Following assignment of the property, the
- 3 entity requesting securitization does not have any beneficial
- 4 <u>interest or claim of right in such charges or in any property.</u>
- 5 Sec. 31.107. SEVERABILITY. Effective on the date the first
- 6 bonds are issued under this subchapter, if any provision in this
- 7 title or portion of this title is held to be invalid or is
- 8 invalidated, superseded, replaced, repealed, or expires for any
- 9 reason, that occurrence does not affect the validity or
- 10 continuation of this subchapter or any other provision of this
- 11 title that is relevant to the issuance, administration, payment,
- 12 retirement, or refunding of authorized securitization bonds or to
- 13 any actions of an entity requesting securitization under this
- 14 subchapter, its successors, an assignee, a collection agent, the
- 15 corporation, an issuer, or a financing party, and those provisions
- 16 <u>shall remain in full force and effect.</u>
- 17 SECTION 2. Section 39.002, Utilities Code, is amended to
- 18 read as follows:
- 19 Sec. 39.002. APPLICABILITY. This chapter, other than
- 20 Sections <u>39.151</u>, 39.1516, 39.155, 39.157(e), 39.203, 39.904,
- 21 39.9051, 39.9052, and 39.914(e), does not apply to a municipally
- 22 owned utility or an electric cooperative. Sections 39.157(e),
- 23 39.203, and 39.904, however, apply only to a municipally owned
- 24 utility or an electric cooperative that is offering customer
- 25 choice. If there is a conflict between the specific provisions of
- 26 this chapter and any other provisions of this title, except for
- 27 Chapters 40 and 41, the provisions of this chapter control.

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- 1 SECTION 3. Section 39.151, Utilities Code, is amended by
- 2 adding Subsection (j-1) to read as follows:
- 3 (j-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (j), the independent
- 4 system operator in ERCOT may not apply proceeds or assess uplift
- 5 charges to a municipally owned utility that becomes subject to the
- 6 jurisdiction of the independent system operator in ERCOT on or
- 7 after June 1, 2021, and before December 30, 2021, related to uplift
- 8 charges that occurred before June 1, 2021.
- 9 SECTION 4. Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding
- 10 Subchapter M to read as follows:
- 11 SUBCHAPTER M. SECURITIZATION FOR INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION
- 12 Sec. 39.601. PURPOSE; USE OF PROCEEDS; BOND CHARGES. (a)
- 13 The purpose of this subchapter is to enable the independent
- 14 organization certified under Section 39.151 for the ERCOT power
- 15 region to use securitization financing to fund extraordinary
- 16 <u>ancillary service and reliability deployment price adder charges</u>
- 17 that were uplifted on a load ratio share basis and added to the cost
- 18 of energy used to supply end-use customers. Securitization will
- 19 allow wholesale market participants who are owed money to be paid in
- 20 a more timely manner, while allowing the balance to be repaid over
- 21 time at a low carrying cost.
- (b) The proceeds of bonds issued for the purpose described
- 23 by Subsection (a) must be used solely for the purpose of financing
- 24 uplift balances that were allocated to all load-serving entities on
- 25 a load ratio share basis as a result of usage during the period of
- 26 emergency or uplift adders that were included in the cost of energy
- 27 used to supply end-use customers. The commission shall ensure that

- 1 securitization provides tangible and quantifiable benefits to
- 2 wholesale market participants, greater than would have been
- 3 achieved absent the issuance of bonds.
- 4 (c) The commission shall ensure that the structuring and
- 5 pricing of the bonds result in the lowest bond charges consistent
- 6 with market conditions and the terms of the financing order. The
- 7 present value calculation shall use a discount rate equal to the
- 8 proposed interest rate on the bonds.
- 9 Sec. 39.602. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
- 10 (1) "Assignee" means any individual, corporation, or
- 11 other legally recognized entity to which an interest in uplift
- 12 property is transferred, other than as security.
- 13 (2) "Financing order" means an order of the commission
- 14 approving the issuance of bonds and the creation of charges for the
- 15 recovery of qualified costs.
- 16 (3) "Financing party" means a holder of bonds,
- 17 including trustees, collateral agents, and other persons acting for
- 18 the benefit of the holder.
- 19 (4) "Independent organization" means the independent
- 20 organization certified under Section 39.151 for the ERCOT power
- 21 region.
- 22 (5) "Load-serving entity" means a municipally owned
- 23 utility, an electric cooperative, or a retail electric provider
- 24 that provides electric service to end-use customers.
- 25 (6) "Period of emergency" means the period beginning
- 26 12:01 a.m., February 12, 2021, and ending 11:59 p.m., February 20,
- 27 2021.

(7) "Qualified costs" means the total balance of costs 1 described as uplift charges, together with the costs of issuing, 2 supporting, and servicing bonds and any costs of retiring and 3 refunding existing debt in connection with the issuance of the 4 5 bonds. 6 (8) "Uplift charges" means charges for reliability 7 deployment price adders and ancillary services costs in excess of the commission's system-wide offer cap that were uplifted to 8 load-serving entities on a load ratio share basis due to energy 9 consumption during the period of emergency. The term also includes 10 reliability deployment price adders included in the cost of energy 11 12 used to supply end-use customers during the period beginning 12:01 a.m., February 18, 2021, and ending 9 a.m., February 19, 2021. 13 Sec. 39.603. FINANCING ORDERS; TERMS. (a) On application 14 15 of the independent organization, the commission may adopt a financing order to recover the costs of an uplift balance of 16 17 qualified costs resulting from a significant pricing event on making a finding that such financing is needed to preserve the 18 19 integrity of the wholesale market and the public interest after 20 considering: 21 (1) the interests of wholesale market participants who 22 are owed balances; and (2) the potential effects of charging those balances 23 24 to the wholesale market and end-use customers without a financing 25 vehicle.

recovered and the period over which the nonbypassable uplift

(b) The financing order must detail the amounts to be

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- 1 charges shall be recovered. The period may not exceed 30 years. If an amount determined under this section is subject to judicial 2 3 review of a commission order, a bankruptcy proceeding, or another type of litigation at the time of the securitization proceeding, 4 5 the financing order shall include an adjustment mechanism requiring the independent organization to adjust its uplift charges in a 6 7 manner that would refund, over the remaining life of the bonds, any 8 overpayments resulting from securitization of amounts in excess of the amount resulting from a final determination after completion of 9 all appellate reviews. The adjustment mechanism may not affect the 10 stream of revenue available to service the bonds. An adjustment may 11 12 not be made under this subsection until all appellate reviews have been completed, including appellate reviews following a commission 13 14 decision on remand of its original orders, if applicable.
- (c) Nonbypassable uplift charges must be allocated to all load-serving entities on a load ratio share basis for pass-through to end-use customers.
- 18 (d) A financing order becomes effective in accordance with
 19 its terms and the financing order, together with the uplift charges
 20 authorized in the order, shall be irrevocable and not subject to
 21 reduction, impairment, or adjustment by further action of the
 22 commission after it takes effect.
- (e) The commission shall issue a financing order not later
 than the 30th day after the date the independent organization files
 a request for the financing order under Subsection (a) or (g).
- 26 <u>(f) A financing order is not subject to rehearing by the</u> 27 <u>commission. A financing order may be reviewed by appeal by a party</u>

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1 to the proceeding to a Travis County district court filed not later 2 than the 15th day after the date the financing order is signed by the commission. The judgment of the district court may be reviewed 3 only by direct appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas filed not later 4 5 than the 15th day after the date of the entry of judgment. All appeals shall be heard and determined by the district court and the 6 7 Supreme Court of Texas as expeditiously as possible with lawful precedence over other matters. Review on appeal shall be based 8 solely on the record before the commission and briefs to the court 9 10 and shall be limited to whether the financing order conforms to the constitution and laws of this state and the United States and is 11 12 within the authority of the commission under this chapter. 13

(g) At the request of the independent organization, the commission may adopt a financing order providing for retiring and refunding the bonds on making a finding that the future uplift charges required to service the new bonds, including transaction costs, will be less than the future uplift charges required to service the bonds being refunded. On the retirement of the refunded bonds, the commission shall adjust the related uplift charges accordingly.

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21 Sec. 39.604. PROPERTY RIGHTS. (a) The rights and interests 22 of the independent organization or its successor under a financing order, including the right to impose, collect, and receive uplift 23 charges authorized in the order, shall be only contract rights 24 until they are first transferred to an assignee or pledged in 25 26 connection with the issuance of bonds, at which time they will

become uplift property, as described by Subsection (b). 27

- 1 (b) Uplift property shall constitute a present property
- 2 right for purposes of contracts concerning the sale or pledge of
- 3 property, even though the imposition and collection of uplift
- 4 charges depends on further acts of the independent organization or
- 5 others that have not yet occurred. The financing order shall remain
- 6 in effect and the property shall continue to exist for the same
- 7 period as the pledge of the state described by Section 39.609.
- 8 (c) All revenues and collections resulting from uplift
- 9 charges shall constitute proceeds only of the uplift property
- 10 arising from the financing order.
- 11 Sec. 39.605. INTEREST NOT SUBJECT TO SETOFF. The interest
- 12 of an assignee or pledgee in uplift property and in the revenues and
- 13 collections arising from that property are not subject to setoff,
- 14 counterclaim, surcharge, or defense by the independent
- 15 organization or any other person or in connection with the
- 16 bankruptcy of a wholesale market participant or the independent
- 17 organization. A financing order shall remain in effect and
- 18 unabated notwithstanding the bankruptcy of the independent
- 19 organization, its successors, or assignees.
- Sec. 39.606. UPLIFT CHARGES NONBYPASSABLE. A financing
- 21 order shall include terms ensuring that the imposition and
- 22 collection of uplift charges authorized in the order shall be
- 23 <u>nonbypassable.</u>
- Sec. 39.607. TRUE-UP. A financing order shall include a
- 25 mechanism requiring that uplift charges be reviewed and adjusted at
- 26 least annually, not later than the 45th day after the anniversary
- 27 date of the issuance of the bonds, to:

- 1 (1) correct over-collections or under-collections of
- 2 the preceding 12 months; and
- 3 (2) ensure the expected recovery of amounts sufficient
- 4 to timely provide all payments of debt service and other required
- 5 <u>amounts and charges in connection with the bonds.</u>
- 6 Sec. 39.608. SECURITY INTERESTS; ASSIGNMENT; COMMINGLING;
- 7 DEFAULT. (a) Uplift property does not constitute an account or
- 8 general intangible under Section 9.106, Business & Commerce Code.
- 9 The creation, granting, perfection, and enforcement of liens and
- 10 security interests in uplift property are governed by this section
- 11 and not by the Business & Commerce Code.
- 12 (b) A valid and enforceable lien and security interest in
- 13 uplift property may be created only by a financing order and the
- 14 <u>execution and delivery of a security agreement with a financing</u>
- 15 party in connection with the issuance of bonds. The lien and
- 16 <u>security interest shall attach automatically from the time that</u>
- 17 value is received for the bonds and, on perfection through the
- 18 filing of notice with the secretary of state in accordance with the
- 19 rules prescribed under Subsection (d), shall be a continuously
- 20 perfected lien and security interest in the uplift property and all
- 21 proceeds of the property, whether accrued or not, shall have
- 22 priority in the order of filing and take precedence over any
- 23 subsequent judicial or other lien creditor. If notice is filed
- 24 before the 10th day after the date value is received for the bonds,
- 25 the security interest shall be perfected retroactive to the date
- 26 value was received. Otherwise, the security interest shall be
- 27 perfected as of the date of filing.

- 1 (c) Transfer of an interest in uplift property to an 2 assignee shall be perfected against all third parties, including subsequent judicial or other lien creditors, when the financing 3 order becomes effective, transfer documents have been delivered to 4 5 the assignee, and a notice of that transfer has been filed in accordance with the rules adopted under Subsection (d). However, if 6 7 notice of the transfer has not been filed in accordance with this subsection before the 10th day after the delivery of transfer 8 documentation, the transfer of the interest is not perfected 9 10 against third parties until the notice is filed.
- 11 (d) The secretary of state shall implement this section by

 12 establishing and maintaining a separate system of records for the

 13 filing of notices under this section and adopting the rules for

 14 those filings based on Chapter 9, Business & Commerce Code, adapted

 15 to this subchapter and using the terms defined by this subchapter.
- (e) The priority of a lien and security interest perfected 16 17 under this section is not impaired by any later modification of the financing order under Section 39.607 or by the commingling of funds 18 19 arising from uplift charges with other funds, and any other security interest that may apply to those funds shall be terminated 20 when they are transferred to a segregated account for the assignee 21 22 or a financing party. If uplift property has been transferred to an assignee, any proceeds of that property shall be held in trust for 23 24 the assignee.
- (f) If a default or termination occurs under the bonds, the financing parties or their representatives may foreclose on or otherwise enforce their lien and security interest in any property

- 1 as if they were secured parties under Chapter 9, Business & Commerce
- 2 Code, and the commission may order that amounts arising from uplift
- 3 charges be transferred to a separate account for the financing
- 4 parties' benefit, to which their lien and security interest shall
- 5 apply. On application by or on behalf of the financing parties, a
- 6 district court of Travis County shall order the sequestration and
- 7 payment to them of revenues arising from the uplift charges.
- 8 Sec. 39.609. PLEDGE OF STATE. Bonds authorized by this
- 9 subchapter are not a debt or obligation of the state and are not a
- 10 charge on its full faith and credit or taxing power. The state
- 11 pledges, however, for the benefit and protection of financing
- 12 parties and the independent organization that it will not take or
- 13 permit any action that would impair the value of uplift property, or
- 14 reduce, alter, or impair the uplift charges to be imposed,
- 15 collected, and remitted to financing parties, until the principal,
- 16 interest and premium, and any other charges incurred and contracts
- 17 to be performed in connection with the related bonds have been paid
- 18 and performed in full. Any party issuing bonds under this
- 19 subchapter is authorized to include this pledge in any
- 20 documentation relating to those bonds.
- Sec. 39.610. TAX EXEMPTION. Transactions involving the
- 22 transfer and ownership of uplift property and the receipt of uplift
- 23 charges are exempt from state and local income, sales, franchise,
- 24 gross receipts, and other taxes or similar charges.
- Sec. 39.611. NOT PUBLIC UTILITY. An assignee or financing
- 26 party may not be considered to be a public utility or person
- 27 providing electric service solely by virtue of the transactions

- 1 <u>described in this subchapter.</u>
- 2 <u>Sec. 39.612. SEVERABILITY. Effective on the date the first</u>
- 3 bonds are issued under this subchapter, if any provision in this
- 4 title or portion of this title is held to be invalid or is
- 5 invalidated, superseded, replaced, repealed, or expires for any
- 6 reason, that occurrence does not affect the validity or
- 7 continuation of this subchapter or any other provision of this
- 8 title that is relevant to the issuance, administration, payment,
- 9 retirement, or refunding of bonds or to any actions of the
- 10 independent organization, its successors, an assignee, a
- 11 collection agent, or a financing party, which shall remain in full
- 12 force and effect.
- Sec. 39.613. CUSTOMER CHARGES. All load-serving entities
- 14 that directly or indirectly receive offsets to specific charges
- 15 from the independent organization under this subchapter must adjust
- 16 <u>customer invoices to reflect these offsets for any charges that</u>
- 17 were or would otherwise be passed through to customers under the
- 18 terms of service with the load-serving entity, including providing
- 19 a refund for any offset charges that were previously paid.
- 20 SECTION 5. The independent organization certified under
- 21 Section 39.151, Utilities Code, for the ERCOT power region shall
- 22 file an application for a financing order under Section 39.603,
- 23 Utilities Code, as added by this Act, not later than the 10th day
- 24 after the effective date of this Act.
- 25 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
- 26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
- 27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.